

# **Woonsocket Water Treatment Plant Project Advisory Committee**

**February 3, 2011**

**7PM**

**Woonsocket City Hall**

**Committee members present: Chairman James Cournoyer, Vice-Chairman City Councilman Daniel Gendren, City Councilman Christopher Beauchamp, Alan Rivers, Paul Levreault, Matthew Tessitore, Owen Bebeau, Secretary.**

**Guests: Mayor Leo Fontaine, Robert Otovski (CDM), Charles Adelsberger (CDM)**

**Robert Otovski and Charles Adelsberger gave an overview of the work CDM has done to date on the water plant project.**

**The committee asked various questions to CDM. The following topics were discussed:**

**North Smithfield site costs; twin lines to Pawtucket as dictated by RI Department of Health; Woonsocket reservoir; water flow if City plant is built on existing site; water quality of Woonsocket water vs. Pawtucket water; new water rates could only be determined after rate study is done in either scenario; sale of water to Cumberland and/or**

**Lincoln; time frame of construction of either project and the DEM consent deadline; decommission of current site along with reconstruction; North Smithfield site needs longer time frame for construction; consent agreement; North Smithfield taxes on water plant; project schedule; permitting process; RI Water Resources Board may provide some funding if pipeline to Pawtucket is constructed; recommended that Water Resources Board meet with this committee.**

**The following items were noted during the discussion with CDM:**

- CDM informed the Board that Woonsocket has a superior quality of raw and treated water as compared to Pawtucket.**
- Although feasible, it is not necessarily practical nor the intent, except in emergency situations, to flow water (either raw or treated) from Woonsocket to/towards Pawtucket. The pumps, baffles, valves, etc. will be configured with the primary intention of flowing water from Pawtucket to Woonsocket.**
- To date, there has been no financial analysis completed that compares the current two alternatives (alternative 1: Pawtucket + 4MGD WTP at site of current treatment plant; alternative 2: 8MGD WTP built on the NS site), including the ultimate impact on the rate payers.**
- CDM noted that without some sort of third-party funding (e.g. grants from the RI Water Resources Board); the Pawtucket solution would clearly cost more than the NS solution.**

- CDM noted that with respect to the Pawtucket option, they would prefer a single 30-inch pipe-line as opposed to two twin 16-inch pipelines as has been suggested by the RIDOH. CDM suggested that they could engineer the pipeline in a manner that could address the RIDOH's concerns.
- CDM noted that there would be a requirement to flow / purchase some minimal amount of water from Pawtucket on a regular basis in order to keep the line "wet", as opposed to going approximately 262 days without purchasing any water as was implied in the November 4 CDM presentation (slide #6). Asked for an estimate of the amount required, Robert Otaski said he was unsure, but perhaps ".5MGD".
- To date, CDM has not contacted the RIDOT with regard to putting in a pipeline from Pawtucket to Woonsocket via the Bike Path. Mayor Fontaine noted that former Public Works Director Michael Annarummo had spoken to the RIDOT.
- There was discussion regarding an interconnect that is being put in place between Woonsocket and Cumberland and it was noted that the interconnect will be installed regardless of weather or not the Pawtucket pipeline is installed. Furthermore, the interconnect will allow Woonsocket to wholesale water to Cumberland, with the intent of providing approximately 1.5 - 2MGD. It was noted that the Pawtucket pipeline was not necessary in order to sell and deliver the 1.5-2MGD to Cumberland, as the interconnect will allow for that.
- CDM noted that they subcontracted to have an integrity test of the existing plant and that the results would be forthcoming.

**Mayor spoke of future needs/opportunities with Pawtucket pipeline.**

**The next meeting was set for February 9, 2011 at 7PM (alternate date February 10). Woonsocket Water Superintendent Carol Lariviere will be present.**

**The minutes of the 1/25/11 were approved.**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:42PM**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Owen Bebeau**

**Secretary**